

Jasmine Randall
Ms. Giknis
College English
December 9th, 2022

The Road

“Survival” By Drake

To begin with the playlist, we have a song that is suitable for the book, *The Road*, just by the title of the music. Survival is a massive thing in the novel. It is every man for themselves. There are limited resources such as food, supplies, and water that have not been contaminated by waste fills. The man and the boy are constantly on the move trying to find more food and supplies, and they have to be careful while doing so because there are people in the world that will kill them to eat them.

“Slippin” By DMX

Throughout the story, there is the contemplation of suicide mentioned quite often. The wife, who commits suicide, feels like she cannot take it anymore. She did not want to deal with the suffering the new apocalyptic world would bring. She believed it was inevitable that she would be raped, killed, or eaten, so she took matters into her own hands. The song “Slippin” talks about his problems, and over time, he loses every hope that was supposed to help him survive his issues. DMX uses this phrase “See, to live is to suffer, but to survive, well, that’s to find meaning in the suffering.” To him, it meant that life is nothing but suffering, and if you can survive the nightmare that comes along, it is to find a meaning in it.

“Lift Me Up” By Rhianna

In the book, the man constantly dreams about memories between him and his wife. He loses someone he deeply loves, and each time he dreams about his wife, he becomes paranoid. One of the lyrics in the song says, “Burning in a hopeless dream.” This explains the man’s dreams between his wife. His dreams are hopeless because he wishes that those dreams take him back to what the world was before the apocalypse happened.

“Heathens” By Twenty one pilots

The song “Heathens” fits into the book in some ways. The music has a sad tone, almost giving off a gloomy vibe. The song mentions, “Wait for them to ask you who you know. Please don’t make any sudden moves.” I feel these specific lyrics connect to a scene in the book where the man and the boy run to a couple of strangers, also known as the bad guys, and they immediately hide, trying not to get caught by them.

“Radioactive” By Imagine Dragons

The song “Radioactive” describes the book's setting perfectly, and the characters, the man and the boy, experience the apocalypse. A part of the song that stood out to me was when it states, “I’m waking up to ash and dust. I wipe my brow and I sweat my rust. I’m breathing in the chemicals” I thought this perfectly describes how the characters in the book are living in this new world of theirs and how they have to adapt to it. In the book, the author mentions how the man wears goggles and a cotton face mask to protect him from the ash all over the city.